

4 a substantially solid porous sleeve faced in parallel with the shaft forming a bearing portion with a
5 minimum gap provided therebetween; and

6 magnetic fluid oil impregnated into the gap and the porous sleeve,

7 wherein a ferromagnetic substance included in the shaft is locally magnetized so as to create
8 magnetic flux density gradient that is set at a maximum along the bearing portion of the porous sleeve and
9 decreases gradually as it stays away therefrom,

10 wherein a boundary of a magnetization-varying portion of the shaft is aligned with a line of a flow
11 of the magnetic fluid oil occurring with rotary motion of the sleeve or the shaft, and

12 wherein the bearing portion has a groove for generating dynamic pressure formed on a surface of
13 the shaft or the sleeve, and a magnetization-varying portion is arranged in a position of the shaft that
14 corresponds to the groove.

1 6. (Twice Amended) A magnetic fluid bearing motor provided with a bearing assembly, the bearing
2 assembly comprising:

3 a substantially solid porous sleeve including a ferromagnetic material;

4 a shaft faced in parallel with the sleeve with a bearing portion with a minimum gap provided
5 therebetween; and

6 magnetic fluid oil impregnated into the gap and the porous sleeve;

7 wherein a surface of the bearing portion of the sleeve is locally magnetized so as to create magnetic
8 flux density gradient that is set at a maximum along the bearing portion of the porous sleeve and decreases
9 gradually as it stays away therefrom,

10 wherein a boundary of a magnetization-varying portion remaining on the surface of the bearing
11 portion of the sleeve is aligned with a line of a flow of the magnetic fluid oil that occurs with rotary motion
12 of the sleeve or the shaft, and

13 wherein the bearing portion has a groove for generating dynamic pressure formed on a surface of
14 the shaft or the sleeve, and a magnetization-varying portion is arranged in a position of the surface of the
15 bearing portion of the sleeve that corresponds to the groove.